

MARVEL LEGACY

CAGED!

169



LUKE CAGE

WALKER
SANNA
MENYZ



While imprisoned for a crime he did not commit, **Luke Cage** was subjected to medical experiments that gave him superhuman strength and bulletproof skin. Once free, he used his abilities to become a Hero for Hire, protecting people who had nowhere else to turn. His mission has taken him to Wakanda, the Savage Land, even Avengers Mansion, but Luke has never forgotten where he came from.

PREVIOUSLY: Returning home after his trip to New Orleans, Luke Cage unwittingly stopped for lunch in a town under the hypnotic control of the Ringmaster. The mind-controlled police threw him in prison, and Ringmaster erased all Luke's memories. Fellow hypnotized inmate Gonzo Acosta was able to recognize Luke for the hero he is, which got them both in trouble.

As punishment, Luke and Gonzo were sent to work in a mine under the prison. While working, a guard shot an inmate having a seizure from exposure to the mine's toxic waste, and then tried to force Luke and Gonzo to bury the body. Luke decided he'd had enough, and attacked the guards. They opened fire, and the bullets ricocheting off Luke's bulletproof skin hit a support beam--bringing the entire mine down on top of them!

David F. Walker
Writer

Guillermo Sanna
Artist

Marcio Menyz
Color Artist

VC's Joe Sabino
Letterer

Rahzzah
Cover Artist

Mark Basso
Associate Editor

Jake Thomas
Editor

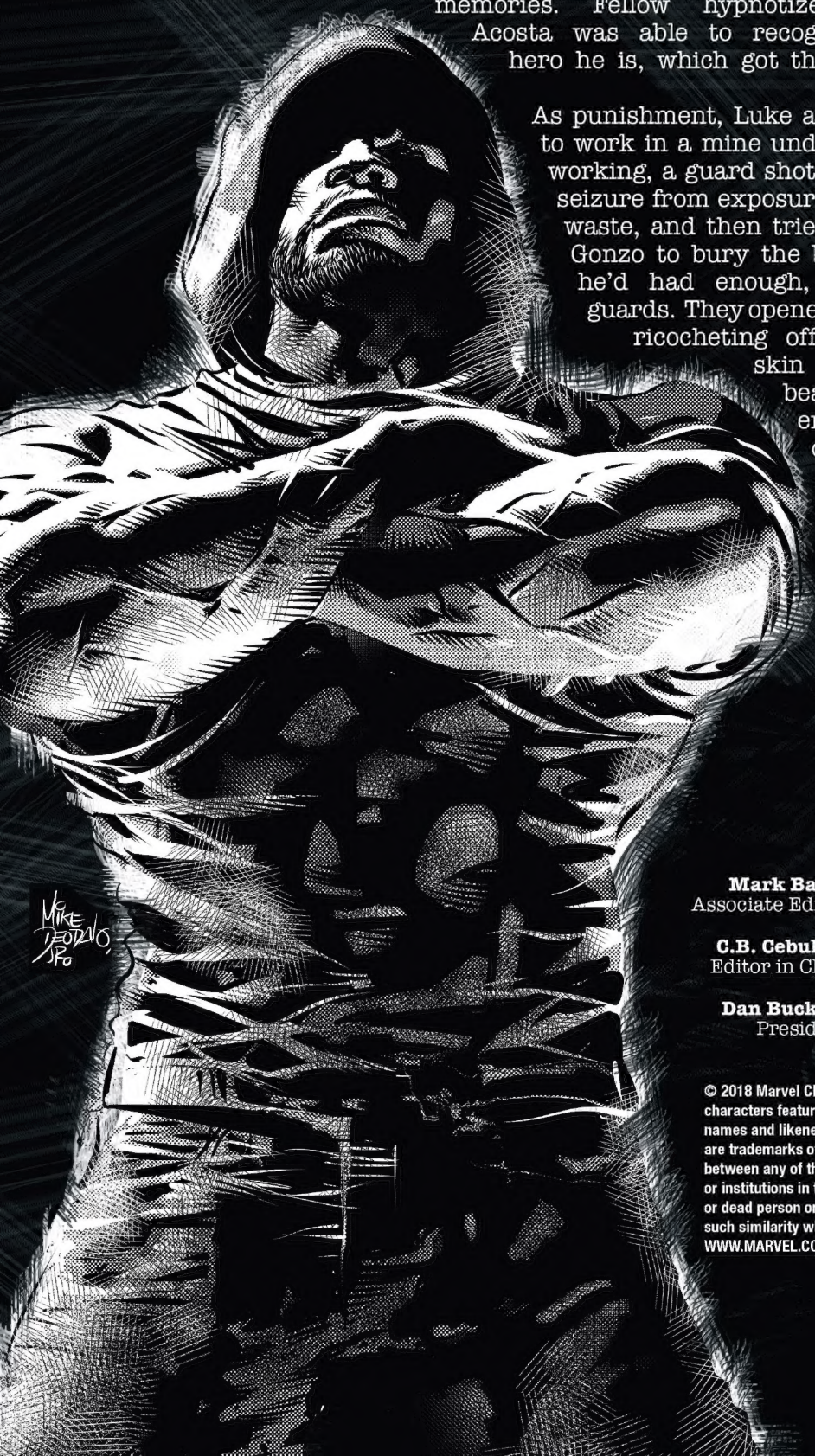
C.B. Cebulski
Editor in Chief

Joe Quesada
Chief Creative Officer

Dan Buckley
President

Alan Fine
Executive Producer

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LET
ME TRY TO
UNDERSTAND...


YOU SHOT
A MAN...WITH
BULLETPROOF
SKIN...INSIDE
A MINE?!

IT ALL
HAPPENED
SO FAST...WE
WEREN'T
THINKING.

DIDN'T THINK
THE BULLET
WOULD RICOCHET
AND START A
CAVE-IN.



YOU KEEP
USING THE WORD
"THINK" WHEN
CLEARLY IT'S NOT
SOMETHING
YOU DO.



THEY HAVE
TO BE DEAD--
THERE'S NO WAY
THEY COULD'VE
SURVIVED THAT
CAVE-IN.



OH, IS
THAT WHAT YOU
THINK?!

YOU THINK
LUKE CAGE IS
DEAD?!



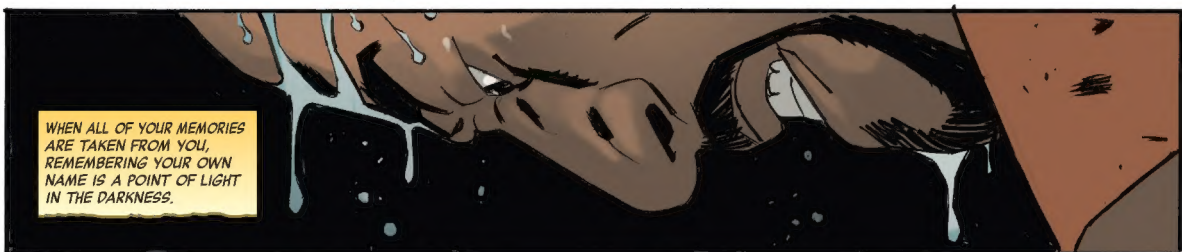
I...I START
TO REMEMBER.



NOT EVERYTHING,
AND NOT ALL
AT ONCE.



IT STARTS WITH
MY NAME.



WHEN ALL OF YOUR MEMORIES
ARE TAKEN FROM YOU,
REMEMBERING YOUR OWN
NAME IS A POINT OF LIGHT
IN THE DARKNESS.



FIRST, I REMEMBER
MY NAME...

...WHICH LEADS
TO GRADUALLY
REMEMBERING
WHO I AM.

AND THEN...

...I REMEMBER
WHAT I CAN
DO.





RINGMASTER DID THIS TO ME--
TO ALL OF US--USED SOME
KIND OF HYPNOSIS TO ROB
US OF OUR IDENTITIES.



HE MADE US FORGET
WHO WE WERE, TURNED
US INTO HIS SLAVES.



HE RUINED LIVES.
KILLED PEOPLE.



=COUGH=
=COUGH=



THAT ENDS
NOW.

YOU OKAY,
GONZO?



I DON'T KNOW.
FEELS LIKE...I'M
WAKING UP FROM
A NIGHTMARE.

WHAT'S
GOING ON?



LAST THING
I REMEMBER FOR
CERTAIN IS RINGMASTER
CASTING SOME KIND
OF HYPNOTIC SPELL
OVER ME.

EVERYTHING
AFTER THAT...LIKE
YOU SAID, FEELS LIKE
I'M WAKING FROM
A NIGHTMARE.



RINGMASTER?
YOU MEAN THAT
IDIOT, MAYNARD
TIBOLDT?

THAT'S
HIM...



...SOMEHOW,
HE MANAGED TO
HYPNOTIZE US--AND
WHO KNOWS HOW MANY
OTHERS. HE'S BEEN
IN CONTROL THE
ENTIRE TIME.

LOOKS LIKE
WHATEVER
CONTROL HE HAD,
IT'S GONE. AT
LEAST FOR
NOW.



CAN YOU
MOVE?

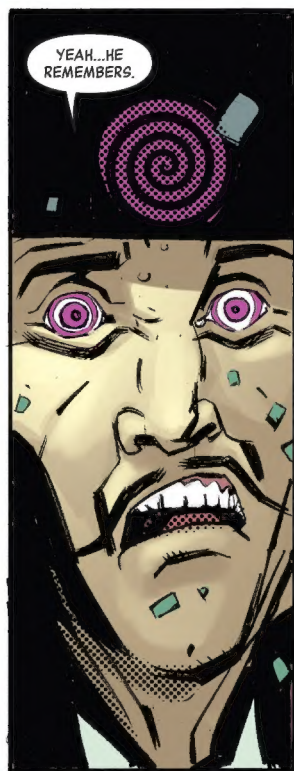
WE HAVE
TO GET OUT
OF HERE.

GET
OUT OF
HERE?



HOW THE
HELL ARE WE
GONNA GET
OUT OF
HERE?







HEY,
MAYNARD, I'M
BACK.

ALL OF YOU,
**STOP
CAGE!**

WHAT'S
HAPPENING?
DID YOU SAY
SOMETHING? WAS
IT AWESOME?



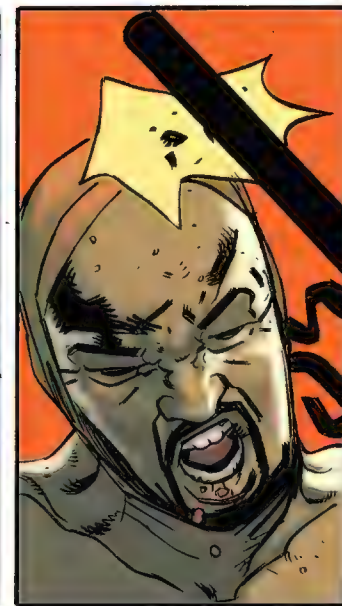
LISTEN TO
THE SOUND OF
MY VOICE...



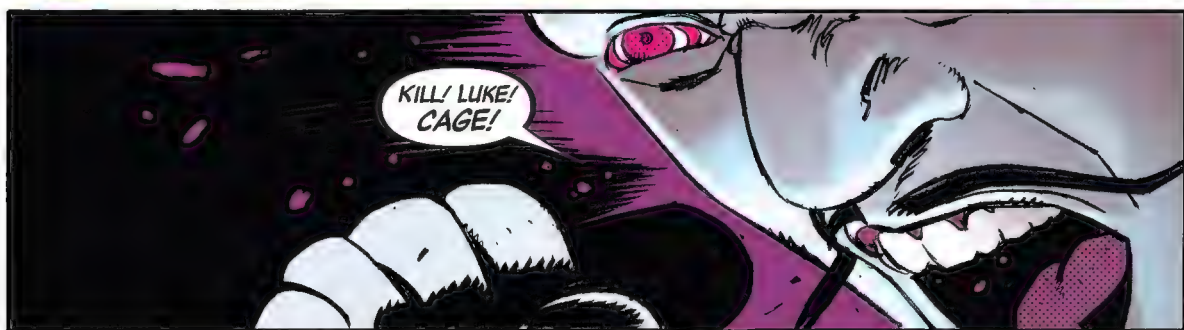
ARE
YOU SAYING
SOMETHING?

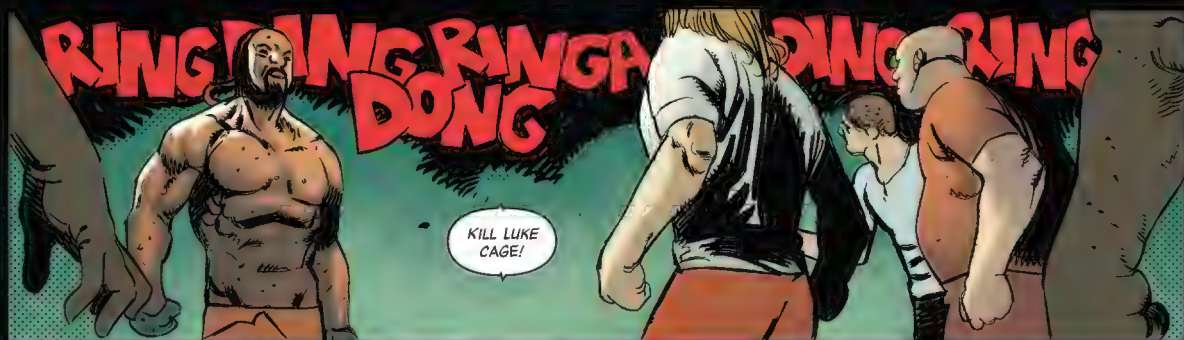
I CAN'T
HEAR YOU.





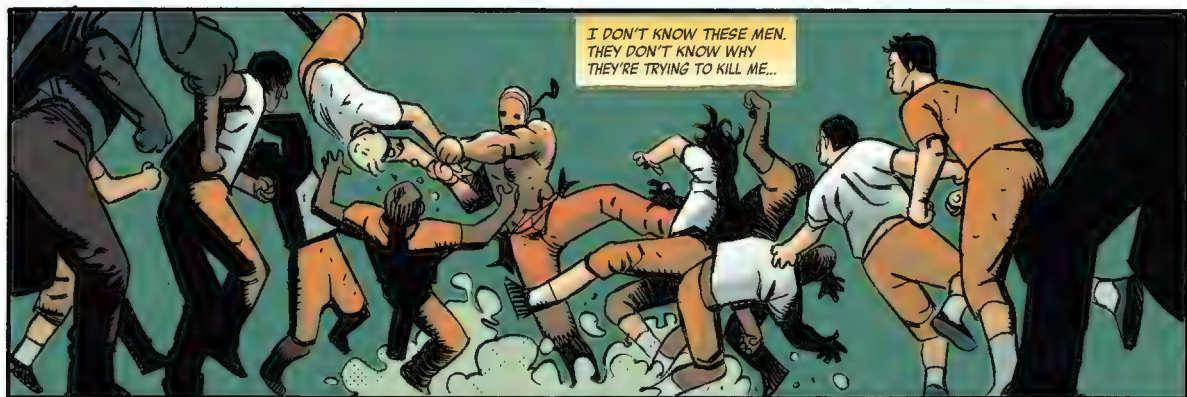






ANYONE WHO
IS NOT UNDER THE
HYPNOTIC SPELL OF
RINGMASTER SHOULD
STEP ASIDE
NOW...





I DON'T KNOW THESE MEN.
THEY DON'T KNOW WHY
THEY'RE TRYING TO KILL ME...



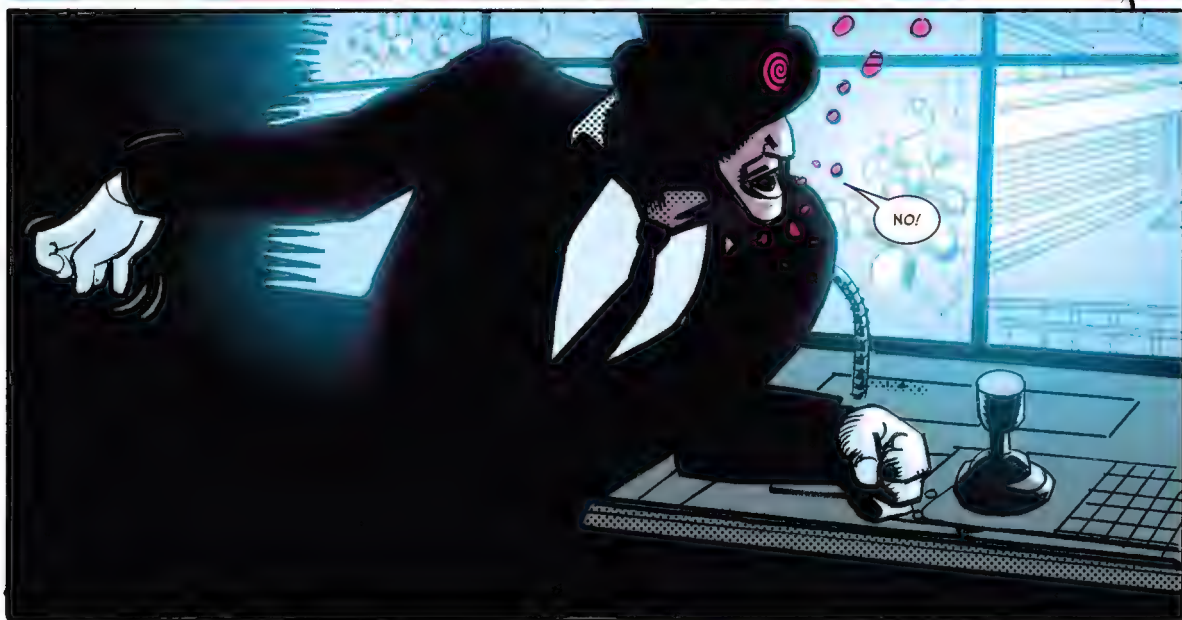
...BUT THAT DOESN'T
STOP THEM FROM
TRYING.

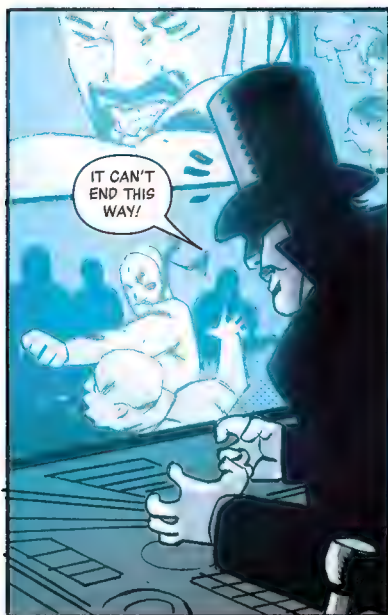


AND IT ALL MAKES ME
HATE RINGMASTER
THAT MUCH MORE.

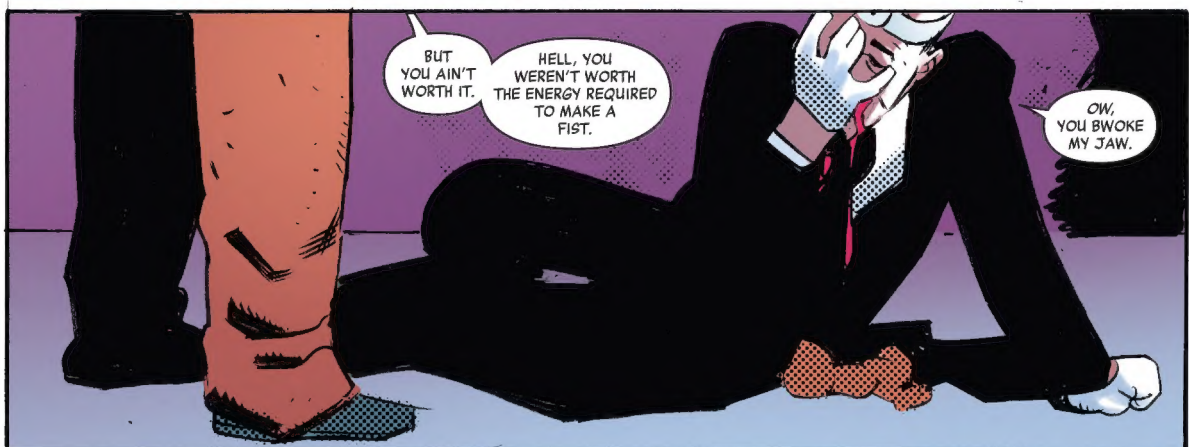
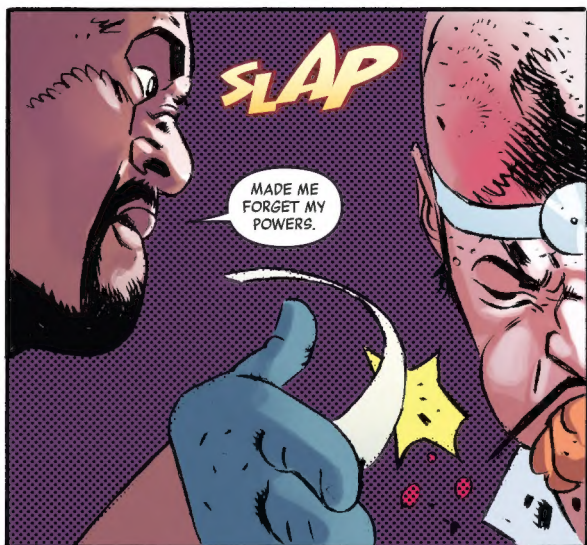


I HATE HIM FOR EVERYTHING
HE'S TAKEN FROM THEM,
AND FROM ME.









LATER.

I JUST WANT
YOU TO KNOW
SOMETHING...

...EVEN WITH
INCREASED POWERS
FROM THAT TOXIC SLOP
YOU INJECTED INTO
YOUR BRAIN...



...YOU STILL
LOST.

YOU TRIED
TURNING A LOT
OF PEOPLE INTO
SOMETHING THEY
AREN'T...



"...TRIED TO TAKE FROM
ALL OF US WHO WE ARE
AND WHAT'S MOST
IMPORTANT."



WHICH IS WHY
HANDING YOU YOUR
ASS IS AN ESPECIALLY
SWEET VICTORY.

NOW...



...TIME FOR
ME TO GET BACK TO
WHAT'S IMPORTANT--
MY WIFE AND
BABY GIRL.

NEXT: STORY TIME!

ONCE UPON A TIME IN... LUKE CAGE #170!



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